



An attempt to quantify the health impacts of flooding in the UK using an urban case study

Author(s): Fewtrell L, Kay D
Year: 2008
Journal: Public Health. 122 (5): 446-451

Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: To quantify, so far as possible, the health effects of flooding in the UK to allow comparison between different flooding events. **METHODS:** The health effects resulting from flooding events were determined through an extensive literature search, where information existed to enable the quantification of these effects. Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) were used to enable the comparison between different health impacts and different flood events and populations, using two sites subject to pluvial flooding in the Bradford area, UK. **RESULTS:** Relatively few properties (and hence people) were affected by flooding in the case study areas and there were no predicted deaths or serious injuries; these results were supported by anecdotal knowledge of the events. Mental health problems, characterized as psychological distress, were estimated for adults; these were found to dominate the calculated health impacts, being considerably greater than the combined physical symptoms in the case study examples. **CONCLUSIONS:** While it was not possible to quantify every flood-related health impact, this method does allow comparisons to be made between different flood events and mitigation strategies.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2007.09.010>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : United Kingdom

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Stress Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content